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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/581,924 06/19/00 ATWELL

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EXAMINER

CANELLA, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1642

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DATE MAILED:

01/19/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/581,924

Applicant(s)

Atwell et al

Examiner

Karen Canella

Group Art Unit

1642



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 30 days month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-89 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-89 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 1642

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-12, drawn to chimeric antibody conjugates.

Group II, claim(s) 13-32, drawn to recombinant polynucleotide molecules encoding a non-human Vh region, a non-human Vl region, a flexible linker and a heterologous sequence encoding a Ch domain or epitope thereof.

Group III, claim(s) 33-38, drawn to a method of detecting an antibody in a biological sample comprising the use of a chimeric antibody conjugate.

Group IV, claim(s) 39-59, drawn to a bifunctional molecule for use in labeling an antibody.

Group V, claim(s) 60-64, drawn to an isolated polynucleotide encoding a bifunctional molecule.

Group VI, claim(s) 65-83, drawn to a complex formed between an antibody or biologically active fragment thereof and a bifunctional molecule.

Group VII, claim(s) 84-89, drawn to a method of detecting an antibody in a biological sample comprising the use of a complex formed between an antibody or biologically active fragment thereof and a bifunctional molecule.

2. A national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Unity of invention is fulfilled only when

Art Unit: 1642

there is a technical relationship among the inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features which define a contribution over the prior art. If there is no special technical feature, if multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT article 17(3) (a) and 1.476 (c), 37 C.F.R. 1.475(d).

By the criteria set forth above, the main invention of the instant application is Claim 1, drawn to drawn to a chimeric antibody conjugate having a non-human antigen binding region and at least one Ch domain. Humanized F(ab)'2 antibody conjugates comprising murine CDR regions and at least one Ch1 domain are known in the art, for example see Better et al (J of Biological Chemistry, 1995, vol. 270, pp. 14951-14957). Because the current invention is not novel, Unity of Invention is found to be lacking.

3. Because the inventions lack Unity of Invention for the reason(s) set forth above, the inventions are held to be distinct. Therefore, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows: infectious diseases selected from the lists recited in claims 12, 35 and 86.

5. Applicant is required, with the election of Groups I, III or VII, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently

Art Unit: 1642

added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

6. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).


7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen Canella whose telephone number is (703) 308-8362. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308-3995. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Karen A. Canella, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner, Group 1642

January 2, 2001


ANTHONY C. CAPUTA
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY GROUP 1642